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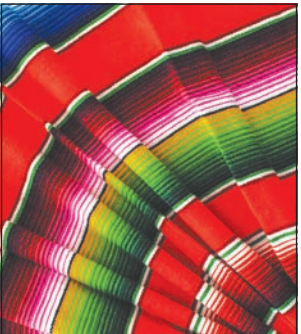
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Curbside service remains open for library

HOLYOKE – At this time, Holyoke Public Library building remains temporarily closed to the public until further notice. We encourage you can access our online resources, request items for curbside pickup, contact us! and more.

LIBRARY, 6



School district celebrates Hispanic Heritage

HOLYOKE – Receiver of School Dr. Alberto Vázquez Matos addressed students and families regarding Hispanic Heritage Month. He said: Each year from September 15 to October 15, we as a country celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. During this month, Holyoke Public Schools takes time to celebrate the history, cultures, language, and contributions of Hispanics and Latinx people to our city and this country. This is also an opportunity for us as a school district to affirm and demonstrate our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity for all of our students, staff, and community.

HERITAGE, 9

Women's Leadership Lunch Series continues

HOLYOKE — Tanisha Arena, executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Arise for Social Justice, and Pam Victor, owner of Happy Valley Comedy Theater, will be the featured presenters on Wed., Sept. 30, during the third session of the 2020 Virtual Women's Leadership Luncheon Series.

LUNCH, 9

Pipe bombs found in garage

HOLYOKE – Holyoke police and fire along with the FBI responded to a scene at 91 Pleasant Street on Tuesday afternoon. Holyoke Police would arrest Gregory A. Bennett, the son of a former police Sgt. Gary Bennett. Bennett was charged with four counts of illegal possession of explosive devices. It appears, according to a spokesperson, that Bennett was attempting to make pipe bombs. Police found several of the bombs in the garage at the Pleasant Street house. It appears a family member alerted police of the devices and there was a quick response as police evacuated six surrounding homes and called in the FBI and the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Bureau was also called in. The pipe bombs were deemed safe and turned over to the Massachusetts State Police.



Pleasant Street was buzzing on Tuesday afternoon as emergency vehicles lined a part of the street. Police and fire converged at the scene.

Photos by Shelby Macri

Boys & Girls Club continues to provide essential services

HOLYOKE – Amidst a global pandemic, social injustice unrest, and unfolding economic crisis, the vast majority of public schools in Western Mass. have now adopted remote learning plat-

forms. Keeping young people on track academically now means clearing major hurdles unlike ever before – logging on to the virtual classroom and having proper food and nutrition each day.



The Boys & Girls Club is helping students with their remote learning.



A dinner program has also been started for area students.

Submitted photos

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke is doing whatever it takes to provide support services for our youth. As more students than ever face academic challenges and a myriad of related issues, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke has launched a full-day child care and learning pod program where a designated group of kids can safely access computers and receive support from Club staff, all while learning and playing at a distance from each other. Club staff provide social, emotional and learning support throughout the virtual school day and transition to traditional Boys & Girls Club afterschool programming and enrichment activities in the afternoon. Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke also continues to combat the food insecurity for the most at-risk youth in Holyoke. The Club is providing targeted dinner deliveries to all children living in homeless shelters, youth with special needs, or parents of children who are elderly or disabled. In partnership with Holyoke Housing Authority and other community partners, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke is also providing meals to four site locations throughout the

Council seeking hiring transparency

Four councilors file
recall election proposal

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke City Council is looking to hire a director of emergency finance and is seeking more transparency in the process.

On Tuesday night, the Council approved an order seeking that.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, the city has been receiving money from the CARES act, the major legislation approved that brought the first round of stimulus checks directly to residents. As a result, the city created a temporary job called “deputy director of emergency finance.”

The job was funded by the CARES act and was filled in June.

According to Ward 2 Councilor Terence Murphy, the job was filled by the city administration without posting the position, standard practice even in emergency situations.

Murphy, whose order was co-sponsored by Councilors Linda Vacon and Michael Sullivan, sought transparency in the hiring process, and referenced Mayor Alex Morse’s

See ESSENTIAL, page 6

See COUNCIL, page 9

Education equity focus of grant to HCC

HOLYOKE – When Holyoke Community College unveiled its four-year, Strategic Plan in 2018, one of its top priorities was increasing success rates of students of color. That aligned with goals established by the Massachusetts Dept. of Higher Education, which in the same year made equity the top policy and performance objective for the entire state public higher education system.

To support those ongoing efforts, the Lumina Foundation last week awarded the Mass. DHE grants worth \$1.2 million, with half the money earmarked for six state colleges and universities, including HCC.

HCC’s \$100,000 award will be used to further the work of its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion task force and expand mentorship programs that focus on students of color.

“We have the distinct pleasure of residing in a diverse community where 50 percent of the residents are Latinx,” President Christina Royal said during a Sept. 10 virtual panel discussion that coincided with the announcement of the Lumina grants. “At Holyoke Community College, our mission to educate, inspire and connect is grounded in the idea that we are of and exist for the communities we serve. Leveraging that cultural wealth is pivotal to moving the equity agenda forward.”

Through its Talent, Innovation, Equity and Equity Institution grants, the Lumina Foundation seeks to dismantle systemic barriers to student success and degree attainment, particularly for Black and Latinx students. Massachusetts was only the fifth state to receive grants from the Lumina Foundation, an independent, private foundation based in Indianapolis.

“Access to quality higher education can help set students up for a lifetime of success, but systemic inequities in our higher education system prevent far too many Black and brown students from achieving their full potential,” said Mass. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who joined the Sept. 10 virtual gathering along with Sen. Elizabeth Warren. “It’s critical that our campuses reflect the diversity of our communities and that our colleges and universities are equipped with the resources, data, and cultural competency to support students of every background.”

During the panel discussion, Royal noted that Latinx students participating in HCC’s ALANA Men in



Holyoke Community College has received a DHE grant for \$1.2 million.

Submitted photo

Motion program show a fall-to-fall retention rate of 75 percent, compared to 45 percent for Latinx students not participating in ALANA, an academic support, mentoring, and counseling program for African American, Latino, Asian, and Native American men.

“There’s a great deal of research to show that mentorship has positive academic benefits for students of color,” Royal said, “so we want to build on the successes of HCC programs like ALANA to provide students of color more vehicles to be connected with students, alumni and others like them.”

HCC’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion group focuses on making sure students of color succeed at the same rate as their white peers, using benchmarks such as retention and college completion rates.

“Through the EDI group, we will be training a team of professionals on campus who know how to talk about equity, preach its importance and execute changes so that equity comes embedded in our culture, so it is what we live and breathe,” Royal said.

In addition to the \$500,000 Talent, Innovation,

Equity partnership grant awarded to the DHE, \$100,000 Equity Institution grants were awarded to HCC, Greenfield Community College, Bridgewater State University, Bunker Hill Community College, the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, the University of Massachusetts Boston, and the Boston Foundation.

“We have been impressed and energized by the commitment to racial equity demonstrated at all levels of the Commonwealth,” said Danette Howard, Lumina’s senior vice president and chief strategy officer. “We believe the work ahead will catalyze structural improvements for equity within Massachusetts institutions and communities throughout the state.”

“COVID-19 has exposed inequities across our state,” said Carlos E. Santiago, Mass. Commissioner of Higher Education. “With Lumina’s support, we will be able to accelerate our work to ensure that students of color from underserved communities feel welcome on campus and have the resources they need to complete their degrees and enter the workforce in a timely fashion.”

Free additional testing site offered at War Memorial

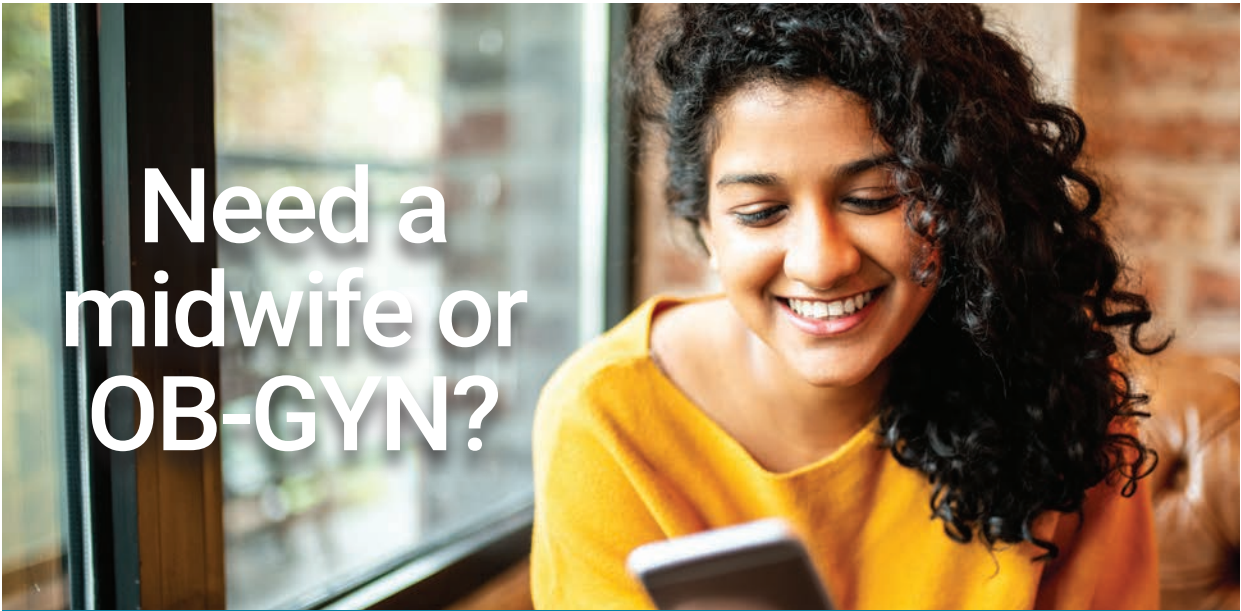
HOLYOKE – Beginning this week, Holyoke will be adding a second “Stop the Spread” free COVID testing site. The site will be located in the city parking lot across from the War Memorial Building and next to the McDonalds at 285 Maple Street. This testing site will be

open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and is for walk-up testing only. Both the walk-thru and drive-thru sites have been extended to run until Sept. 30. Additional information is below:

- This test site is first come, first serve. There are no

appointments. Please do not call the Health Department to make an appointment.

- There is no cost for the testing. You do not need a referral, nor do you need to be symptomatic.
- The test style will be the less invasive swab in the lower nostril. The older style that required further insertion of the swab will not be used.
- If you have previously tested positive, DPH and CDC guidelines do not recommend getting retested at this time.
- Turnaround time for results is typically 4 days or fewer.
- If you are acutely symptomatic, particularly if you have a high fever, consider scheduling a test with your Primary Care Physician.
- Dogs are prohibited at both the walk-up and drive-thru testing sites.
- Information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the State can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>.



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ADVANCING YOUR HEALTH

United Way of Pioneer Valley will bring school supplies to all homeless students

SPRINGFIELD – United Way of Pioneer Valley (UWPV) is excited to announce backpacks full of school supplies will be provided to all 2,600 students who are homeless in the service area of Hampden County, Granby and South Hadley. Thanks to funding from MassMutual, the program have been able to expand the scope of “Stuff the Bus” and bring help to the students who need it most.

“I am thrilled to work with MassMutual to help what matters most – our children, who are suffering greatly in these difficult times,” said Paul Mina, President and CEO of the United Way of Pioneer Valley.

United Way of Pioneer Valley mobilizes people and resources to strengthen our communities. We target the community’s most pressing needs and focus resources, community partnerships and the energy of volunteers to create measurable results. For more information, visit uwpv.org.

Cooper’s accepting donations for ‘Dress for Success’

AGAWAM – For a limited time Cooper’s Gifts Apparel Home of Agawam is accepting donations of professional attire for Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts.

Interview-appropriate women’s clothing, shoes and accessories will be collected at Coopers through Sept. 30.

“We invite everyone to Fall-clean their closets and change a life,” said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper’s Gifts Apparel Home.

Donations must be like-new, clean and on hangers. All professional attire is welcome, but DFS has expressed that their greatest current needs are for petite and plus sizes, like-new shoes, especially size 8 and up and purses. No casual clothing, please.

“Just ask yourself ‘Would I wear this to an interview?’ If the answer is yes, Dress for Success can put it to good use,” Gourde said.

The mission of Dress for Success (DFS) is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. They provide each client with professional attire to secure employment, but they are about much more than simply a new outfit. Besides physically equipping the client with apparel and accessories, their pro-

grams furnish her with a confidence that she carries forever and the knowledge that she can actively define her life, the direction she takes and what success means to her.

“We have held clothing drives for DFS for years; our customers consider it a convenience. Especially for people West of the river, it’s easier to bring donations here than up to the DFS Boutique on Boston Road,” Gourde said.

Items may be brought to the shop anytime during the month of September. Cooper’s is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, and is open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“This drive coincides with Dress for Success as our September Round-Up charity; so it’s the perfect time to spread the word of their mission and really help them out,” Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store’s Round Up program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the next dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated nearly \$25,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity, may be found on Cooper’s website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/

Soto Home Care expands business in downtown Holyoke

HOLYOKE – Soto Home Care owner, Anthony Soto, is pleased to announce their new location at 233 Maple Street in downtown Holyoke. Formally on High Street, Anthony and his team grew the company from just a handful of clients within the city to currently serving throughout all Western and Central Massachusetts. A fully bilingual company, Soto Home Care is committed to providing quality care to their patients in partnership with the patient’s family and physicians.

“It is an honor to be able to grow here in Holyoke. We have been very fortunate, and it is a pleasure to serve the diverse population of greater Holyoke.”, said owner Anthony Soto.

Soto Home Care offers a wide array of services including: Occupational Therapy, Skilled Nursing, Home Health Aide, Diabetes Management and more. A ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for October 2020, details to come.

Free COVID-19 testing extended at HCC

HOLYOKE — Free COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until Sept 30.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help the state and the City of Holyoke reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Tests are being conducted outside HCC’s Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation and administered by EMTs and nurses from County Ambulance and Aveanna Healthcare in Springfield in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Testing is available six days a week through September 30, 2020, during the following hours:

- Monday 7-11 a.m.
- Tuesday 2-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, 7-11 a.m.
- Thursday 2-7 p.m.
- Friday 7-11 a.m.
- Saturday 7-11 a.m.

Tests are conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments, and there is no cost for the tests and no referral is required.

Please enter campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M Lot (adjacent the Bartley Center), where in-car tests are being administered.

Turnaround time for test results is typically four days or fewer.

HPL hosting trivia events

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Sept. 26, the Holyoke Library will be hosting two online trivia events on Facebook Live.

- At 1 p.m. we will have an All Ages Trivia event for the whole family. Only 1 hour. Questions and answers will be posted after event.
- At 8 p.m. we have Pub-style trivia. The questions get harder but it’s still only one hour. Questions and answers will be posted after event.

- Delicious drink and appetizer recipes will be posted on the HPL website so you can plan your own party at home while joining the Trivia game virtually. Look for the links to these Facebook Live events starting Wednesday, Sept. 23 on the Holyoke Library website and the HPL Facebook page.

Museum re-opens for local youth


HOLYOKE – The Children’s Museum at Holyoke is open again. After months of preparing for re-opening we have taken every precaution to ensure the public’s safety.

Times admissions are required on our website at www.childrensmuseum-holyoke.org.

Some walk ins can be accepted based on capacity that day.

NOTICE

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CLUES ACROSS

- Greasy powder (abbr.)
- Away from wind
- Round water pot
- Drink quickly
- A simple type of jet engine
- Something for nothing
- Painkiller
- Siskel's pal
- Strong spirit distilled in Turkey
- Again
- Imitate
- Icelandic poems
- Jacob ____
- No (Scottish)
- Newborn
- Credit term
- Nonprofit research group in CA
- Male offspring
- Important baseball stat
- A way to compel

CLUES DOWN

- Popular kids' game
- Warning sensation before migraine
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Erases
- At ease
- Small branch of an artery
- Mother of Hermes
- Body part
- Cavalry sword
- Wellness chants
- Helps little firms
- Afflicted
- Peep
- Nellie ____
- Spiritual leader
- Doctor of Education
- Affirmative
- Cheek

- Fiddler crab
- Jewish equivalent of "Sir"
- Every
- Midway between east and southeast
- Anti-slavery treaty
- A friendly manner
- Military figure (abbr.)
- Area units
- Sudden incursions
- Expressed pleasure
- Covered with hoarfrost
- Job
- Donkey
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Light dry-gap bridge (abbr.)
- Criticize

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

Guest Column

Winter rye is a great investment in next year's garden

You might think that sowing the seeds of anything this time of year is a waste. Not so! In fact, planting winter rye is a great investment in next year's garden. Who couldn't use a bit more organic matter in their soil? I know I could, and incorporating winter rye grass into the garden patch come springtime is a great way to achieve that goal. Winter rye is one of the few winter hardy cover crops.

What exactly is a cover crop? A simplified but accurate definition would be: "a group of like or mixed plants that protect and enrich the soil." Instead of leaving the ground barren for any length of time, and thereby at risk of erosion and nutrient loss, we plant cover crops. Experienced cover croppers plant them even in the summer months, in any part of the garden not taken up by crops. I have been most successful utilizing them during late fall and winter.

Winter rye (*Secale cereale*) is my cover crop of choice. It is hardy in our area and can be planted successfully after the garden is cleaned up for the season. As its name would suggest, winter rye is a grain that belongs to a large plant family by the name of Gramineae. Besides other grains such as wheat, barley, and oats, this family includes bamboo and many of our favorite lawn grasses among its members. Many legumes and clovers are also used as cover crops. They have the advantage of "fixing" nitrogen from the air and returning it to the soil where it can feed other plants. One legume by the name of hairy vetch will successfully overwinter in our climate and is often used as a companion to winter rye. It can't be sown as late, however, so I stick with my old stand-by.

Winter rye, when sown in the early fall establishes itself quickly. Thick, fibrous roots anchor the soil during the winter and spring months, protecting it from erosion caused by wind and rain. These same roots will hold on to valuable nutrients, preventing them from being leached out of the ground during spring run-off. Besides all of that, the amount of organic matter winter rye adds to the soil when tilled in prior to spring planting is remarkable. At less than \$30 per 50 pound bag, it is well worth the monetary investment.

After the harvest what is left of my garden is hauled off to the compost pile. I hoe up the rows a bit and sow the seed by hand, "broadcast" it if you will, by scattering it in

See GARDEN, page 5

IN THE GARDEN



ROBERTA MCQUAID TURLEY
PUBLICATIONS COLUMNIST



Letters to the Editor

Pass 'End of Life' options

Dear Editor:

The "End of Life Options Act" (H.4782) is being considered by a second legislative committee after it was passed on May 29 by the Public Health Committee. It simply provides a person with a terminal illness--and who is mentally capable of making their own decisions and facing severe pain and suffering-- the option of legally bringing closure to his/her life.

As someone who has worked in a nursing home, and who is presently at 73 very aware of her own not too distant demise, I have observed the unnecessary suffering of some people in their last months, and I fear it

for myself.

It is simply not true that all pain can be alleviated, and all emotional distress can be resolved. Most people are less afraid of death than of what they might have to go through to get there.

Many Springfield-area legislators are supporters and co-sponsors of this bill, including Rep. Vega in Holyoke and Rep. Gonzalez in Springfield. Contact your legislators, thank them for all they're doing to help our communities deal with the Covid19 crisis, and urge them to help pass this bill this fall.

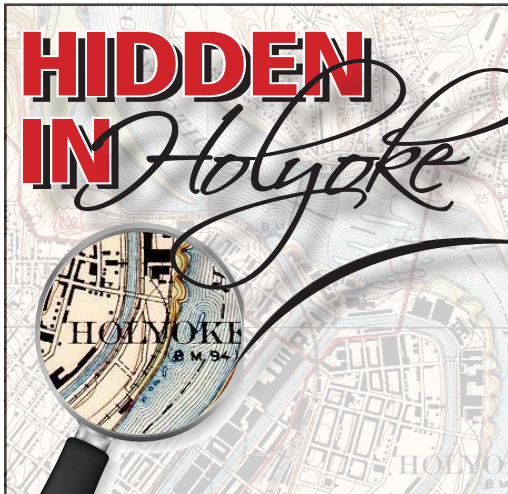
Patricia Rackowski

Poetry Corner

Confusion Confucius Today – 2020

By Thomas J. Kennedy

Are you somewhere?
I am somewhere, I am somewhere
But where . . . But where
Are you there
No I am here . . . Are you there?
How can you be here when I am here?
Well I'm nowhere, perhaps somewhere.
Again, maybe somewhere
God is everywhere!



Each week, *The Holyoke Sun* will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact *The Holyoke Sun* at 413-283-8398.



Last week's "Hidden in Holyoke" was a sign at Maurice A. Donahue School.

the HOLYOKE Sun

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Even if
you're on
the right track,
you'll get
run over if you
just sit there."

Will Rogers

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Can I claim my widow's benefit at age 57?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: My husband passed away in 2001, and he paid into Social Security every year he worked, which would be over 30 years. If he were alive today, he would be 75-years-old. I am 57-years-old and still working full-time. Am I able to collect his Social Security benefits now since I am still working? Signed: Widowed Worker

Dear Widowed Worker: You are not eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your deceased husband if you have remarried, and you cannot collect the survivor benefit until you are at least 60 years of age. And, if you claim at age 60, the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if you waited until your full retirement age (FRA) to claim it (your full retirement age is 67). Any time any Social Security benefit is taken before FRA, it is reduced.

You can claim only your survivor benefit, not your own benefit, at age 60, but whenever benefits are taken before full retirement age, and you are still working, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits.

The earnings limit for 2020 is \$18,240 (it changes yearly) and if the limit is exceeded Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. Such lost survivor benefits are not recoverable. Social Security publishes next year's earnings limits in the fall of each year prior, so what the

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

earnings limit will be when you reach age 60 isn't yet known, but it will be an amount that is more than the 2020 limit.

Assuming you will also be eligible for your own Social Security benefits from your own lifetime work record, you should evaluate which benefit, at maximum, will give you the highest benefit amount. If that is your survivor benefit from your husband (which, at your FRA, would be 100% of the benefit your husband was collecting when he died), then you should consider maximizing the survivor benefit by not claiming it until you reach your FRA. If money is needed earlier, you could claim your own Social Security benefit as early as age 62, and allow your survivor benefit to reach maximum at your FRA. Conversely, if your own Social Security benefit from your own work record will be higher at maximum than your survivor benefit, then you could claim your survivor benefit first and delay claiming your own benefit until it reaches maximum at age 70 (your own benefit will be 24% more at 70 than it will be at your FRA). Your goal should be to get the highest possible benefit for the rest of your life and comparing these two options will permit you to do that. You can find out your estimated benefit amounts in both cases by contacting Social Security.

And remember, if you decide to claim your own benefit before your FRA, that too will be subject to the earnings limit until you reach your FRA, after which there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated

with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website at amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN, from page 4

one direction, then the other. After all the seed is sown, I cover it by dragging the flat end of a steel rack back and forth in the soil. If rain is not in the forecast, I'll water every day for a few days in a row. Germination should occur in a week or so but will cease at the first sign of super cold weather.

When the ground begins to thaw, winter rye will start growing again. I glory in a green "lawn" in March, even if it is only in my garden. About a month prior to planting other crops I chop down the grass with hedge clippers and turn the plants into soil by hand. For big plots you can enlist the help of a rototiller. Here a weed whacker or lawnmower would be put to good use cutting down the grass first. This step prevents tall grass blades from getting caught in the tines of the tiller and will also expedite decomposition of the rye into the soil. It is important to wait until decomposition occurs prior to planting anything else

since this process may inhibit the growth of some plants. As mentioned a month or even three weeks will suffice. If I know I am going to start peas or other very early crops I do leave a section of the garden free of rye so that sowing is easy.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Applause continues with ‘World Odyssey’

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council’s Applause Series continues on Friday, October 2, 2020 when it presents “World Odyssey” by Handler, Levesque, Snow & Church, a concert of international music for flute, mandolin, and guitar. Guitar/Mandolin duo Judy Handler and Mark Levesque return to the Applause Series, joined by flautists Leo Snow and Virginia Church, and share their passion for an alluring mix of music from Latin America, Brazil, Australia, Japan, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Eastern Europe, and other locales. The group’s enchanting arrangements will be broadcast on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7:00 pm. The pre-recorded, hour-long performance will also be streamed from the “Watch” button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance. There will be a three-hour window from 7:00 – 10:00 pm when the program will be available. It is recommended that viewers begin watching no later than 8:45 pm.

Production sponsors for Handler, Levesque, Snow & Church’s “World Odyssey” are Agawam Mayor William Sapelli and Agawam City Councilor Anthony Suffriti. The Agawam Cultural



Virginia Church

Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hamden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi and OMG, Inc. for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly “socially distanced” donation to support efforts to “Give Back to the Community” by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green “Donate” button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

LIBRARY, from page 1

The Holyoke Public Library’s Children’s Room will continue to offer free Grab & Go Activity Kits for kids throughout the fall and winter. To see what we have available or to claim a

kit, please email cpope@holyokelibrary.org or call us at 413-420-8105. Past kits have included building your own stuffed animal, learning about all things outer space, and growing your own flowers.

Curbside Service available Monday-Friday, 9:30am-4:30pm. Contact us for more information.

ESSENTIAL, from page 1

City of Holyoke. From April to August during COVID-19, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke Dinner Program has proudly served over 150,000 dinners and snacks.

If members of the media would like to visit the Club for an interview, please schedule a date and time in advance with President & CEO Eileen Cavanaugh. For further questions about our Fall Programs, please contact Eileen at ecavanaugh@hbgc.org or call 413-534-7366 ext. 111.

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No playoffs, fall season of great importance

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and the several state government agencies have finally come to agreements and there will be a “fall season.”

While there are many who are unhappy with the significantly modified rules for soccer and field hockey, you can guarantee the athletes who will take the field at the end of this week will be grateful to do so.

Granted, soccer will change significantly. No walls to block close-range direct kicks, no corner kicks to headers for goals. The game will be different.

But after six months of almost “lockdown” conditions, the athletes who will participate in these modified games will be able to take advantage of the benefits offered by playing interscholastic sports.

First, they will get to work on teamwork and great communication skills. Those will be important now more than ever as the players get used to these temporary rules. These are values and skills that are taught no matter what, but most players have gone without this repetition for six months. Soccer players, specifically, also missed out on a summer season that is always so valuable to in preparing for the very competitive fall season.

Second, many of the student athletes who will be seniors this year will not have to suffer the same unfortunate fate as the Class of 2020’s spring athletes. Those student-athletes lost out on their entire final seasons in baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, track, and boys volleyball. Additionally, these seniors will be making decisions about where they want to go to college and have this one opportunity be scouted for these sports. The college recruitment process is also pretty important to many skilled juniors.

And third, everyone’s mental health will benefit from the return to high school sports. More than any other competitive sports league, even professionals,

See SEASON, page 8

Student-athletes set to begin practices

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The week many area athletes have been waiting for has come. After six long months of no interscholastic sports, high school fall teams will be able to “take the field” starting this Friday, Sept. 18.

After months of virtual meetings, postponement after postponement from the spring season, and a month-long delay to the fall season, high school players will finally get to start working toward a modified season.

There will be at least two weeks of practices for most teams before games are scheduled to begin. According to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association plan,

games can begin playing on Oct. 1, about a month past when games normally begin. Games typically start the day after Labor Day, which is when most students go back to school.

Student-athletes will be under strict guidelines as they navigate the murky waters of being able to return to action.

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton serves on both the Sports Medicine Subcommittee for the MIAA’s Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors for the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, the governing body of most sports and the schools in the Western Massachusetts region.

Stratton said there will be a clear focus on keeping stu-

dents safe. He said the most important thing to the area schools is ensuring athletes are able to get on the field and play games without setbacks.

“We just want to be able to play and not get shut down,” said Stratton.

While players are set to take the field this Friday, they will do so without schedules finalized.

Stratton said this is because the PVIAC is still waiting for all schools to complete votes on whether they will be participating.

Among the schools the PVIAC is waiting on are Chicopee (and Chicopee Comprehensive), Pathfinder Regional, and a potential re-vote in Southwick.

Chicopee’s school committee was tentatively sched-

uled to vote on Sept. 16. It is not known when the other votes were supposed to take place. Southwick’s school committee had originally voted no to the Fall 1 season and wanted to postpone all sports to Fall 2. But a massive demonstration by the student population is likely leading to a re-vote this week. Southwick is the only school in the Pioneer Valley to have noted to do no sports during the first fall season. Because the rest of the surrounding schools are participating, Southwick students argued they would have no one to play during the Fall 2 season, when football is scheduled to take place. The Fall 2 season is supposed to take place in late February through April,

See PRACTICES, page 8

Local driver Cormier wins mini-stock race

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Todd Patnode (Swanzy, NH) made a late-race pass to earn his third NHSTRA Modified feature of the year Saturday (September 12.)

The high-banked speedplant completed its 13th event of the season Saturday, and when all was said and done, one driver had taken her first victory lap of the year, Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) had stormed to his track-high eleventh feature win, and the sizzling Curtis twins, Jaret and Chase, were again tied atop the Street Stock title race.

The Six Shooter division made its maiden Monadnock run Saturday, with southern-staters Brandon Mailhot (Epping, NH) and Adam Knowles first and second under the flags, and Granite State Mini Cup ace Skeeter Beerce was dominant in both his heat and feature races.

Kevin Pittsinger and Trevor Bleau led the Mod Squad to the green in the night’s 40-lap main event, with Bleau – up in smoke a week earlier – jumping all over the opening lead. Scott MacMichael and Cameron Houle chased Bleau to the front, but Patnode, from row four, was on the move early.

Patnode got up for third on lap ten, took second on the 25th circuit, and had soon reeled Bleau in. And, while almost everyone’s eyes were glued on the front pair, rookie Cory Plummer – from row six – was having a career night just behind them.

Using the inside groove, Patnode inched ahead as lap 34 was completed. Bleau stayed glued to his bumper the final six laps, matching his

season-best finish of opening night in second. Plummer’s huge run netted him third, Ben Byrne came home fourth, and track points leader – third in national points too – Brian Robie was fifth.

Jaret Curtis (Rutland, NH) took the lead from Tim Wenzel on lap 13 of the Street Stock feature and never looked back. Chris Buffone used a rub to take second on lap 17 but could advance no further, earning runner-up honors with Chase Curtis glued to his bumper in third. It was Jaret Curtis’ third win of the season.

Aaron Fellows passed Justin Littlewood for the lead on lap nine of the Late Model Sportsman feature, shrugged off a late-race tap from runner-up Adam Gray, and stormed off to his eleventh win, against one runner-up finish, this season. Gray was second, and Robert Hagar third.

Kevin Cormier (Agawam, Ma) took the lead from Kevin Russell on lap 14 of the Mini Stock main event, then holding strong to earn his second 2020 victory lap. Clayton finished his impressive night’s work in second, with veteran hot shoe Pat Houle coming from row six to post his season-best finish in third.

Top points man Gordon Farnum was fourth in Saturday’s Minis, and now leads the championship points chase by 24 markers over Granby, Mass. hot shoe Nathan Wenzel.

Jason Leray set a fast pace the first six laps of the Pure Stock feature but bobbled on a restart and was quickly shuffled backward. Points leader

See RACE, page 8



Kevin Cormier, a driver from Agawam, took the mini-stock race last Saturday at Monadnock Speedway.

Submitted photos



Todd Patnode won a close race to take the modified event.

Local golfer competes in charity tournament

UNCASVILLE – The Connecticut PGA Pro Veteran Invitational golf tournament that took place last Thursday at Mohegan Sun Golf Club in Baltic, Conn.

This great event kicked off with a Color Guard Ceremony performed by the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the National Anthem sung by Mohegan Sun’s Director of Transportation, Derrick Williams. From there, CT PGA Pro’s joined teams of veterans for an 18-hole scramble score competition.

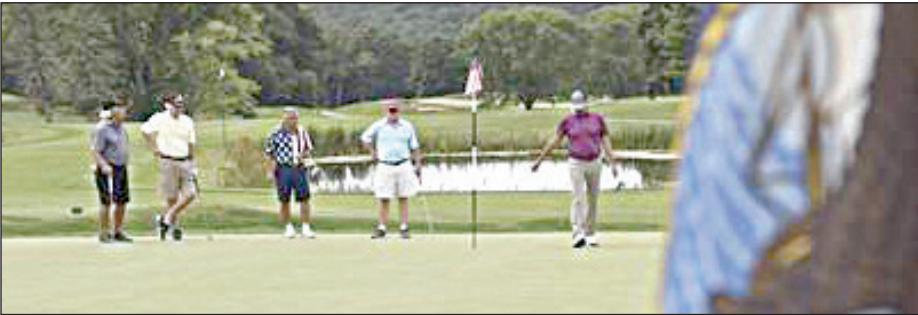
Upon completion of a successful tournament where social distancing guidelines were in practice, Chris Tallman, from Orchards Golf Club in Hadley, MA, took home the Individual Low PGA Professional award, shooting a 68.

The overall winning team (-13), representing Orchard Golf Club, consisted of David Bombard, David Watson, Kyle Wylie and Jay Milkey, along with Chris Tallman, PGA.

Dennis Dungee of the Connecticut Section PGA, along with host PGA Professionals Philip Krick Jr. and Michel Painchaud, presented winners with crystal trophy awards and assorted prizes.

“Our goal with this annual event is to support local and regional veterans and programs through the game of golf,” said Dennis Dungee, CT Section PGA and Philip Krick, Jr., PGA Mohegan Sun Golf Club.

The majority of funds raised from this event, which was nearly \$2,000, will benefit the Salute Military Golf Association of New England, under the leadership of Jerry Shanahan. This organization’s mission is to help in the healing of wounded veterans through the power of golf. To learn more, visit www.SMGA.org/Boston.



Above, Chris Tallman, of South Hadley, chips during action at Mohegan Sun Golf Club. Tallman was part of a winning team that was playing for charity. Left, Golfers gather around one of the holes during action.

Submitted photos

Pioneers announce tryouts

LUDLOW – WUP FC is proud to hold tryouts for the 2020-2021 season. Tryouts are for Boys and Girls of all age groups including an open house for younger ages:

- Developmental Academy: players born in 2013-2015
- First Kick: players born in 2016

This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read

through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately.

To ensure we can create the safest environment for your player due to COVID19 precautions, we are still working on exact dates and times to conduct tryouts for the 2020-2021 season. Players may be invited to smaller training sessions and/or limited attendance tryout venues. You will be notified with options via email.

Tri-County to hold golf tournament

BELCHERTOWN – The Tri-County Baseball League, the premier adult baseball league in Western Massachusetts, will hold its annual golf tournament at Mill Valley Golf Links in Belchertown on Saturday, Oct. 3 with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$80 per player. If you’re

unable to play, there are donations and hole sponsorships available. The tournament will include lunch during the round, raffle, closest to the pin, longest drive, and a special 50/50 drawing. For more information, go to www.tri-countybaseball.net. The registration form is on that website.

Bay State games launches 32nd year of Future Leaders Scholarship

REGION – The Bay State Games is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2020 Future Leaders Scholarship Program. This marks the thirty-second year of this valuable scholarship program that recognizes the leaders of tomorrow who excel in academics, community service, and athletics. The scholarship program is available to any Massachusetts High School student in the class of 2021. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Summer Games, participation in the Bay State Games is not required but is recommended. Six \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to the top applicants.

“Bay State Games is proud to provide valuable college scholarships to student-athletes representing high schools and communities from across Massachusetts,” said Bay State Games Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. “While the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our traditional spring time-

frame for this scholarship, we have moved the process to the fall to ensure that students in the class of 2021 will still have access to this opportunity. I encourage all former Bay State Games Summer and Winter Games participants currently entering their senior year of high school to apply.”

Candidates must submit their application information online by October 15, 2020. The selection process will begin with a review of each student’s application, written recommendations, and transcripts. A number of students will then be selected for virtual interviews which will be conducted the week of November 9. At the conclusion of interviews, six statewide scholarship winners will be announced.

Additional information on the scholarship and a link to an application form can be found at www.baystategames.org/future-leaders-scholarship.

For questions, email info@bay-stategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

SEASON, from page 7

are the enjoyment for parents of watching their children compete at the highest level, varsity. When that was taken away from athletes, coaches, and parents, it was a very tough time. Instead of practicing daily, students were shuttered to their homes. They were unable to see friends, work out, and improve their skills. The extended closure of most public places further exacerbated those restrictions. Now that high school sports are returning, it will great improve that morale

among students. An opportunity to play, compete, and ultimately, have fun. Which is something most high school athletes have not had since the state basketball playoffs were abruptly shut down on March 10.

Hopefully everyone will do their part, wearing masks, socially distancing, and making every effort to obey modified rules so nothing will be shut down as we continue the elusive wait for a vaccine and a return to normalcy.

In the meantime, good luck to the Fall 1 athletes on this important step back to normalcy.

PRACTICES, from page 7

presumably after restrictions from the pandemic would ease up.

Stratton said he hoped to see schedules out by the end of the week once the

votes are completed.

Stratton said schedules will likely be around 10 or 12 games for most teams. The MIAA is not sponsoring any playoffs, but Stratton said the PVIAC is not ruling it out.

RACE, from page 7

Mike Douglas took charge on lap nine but was soon gobbled up by Erin Aiken (Claremont, NH), who then socially distanced herself from the field to score her first win this season, accomplishing the feat aboard the same car her husband, Dave, had driven to victory twice earlier in the season.

Brandon Mailhot started up front and led all the way to win the first-ever Six Shooter feature on the high banks. Adam Knowles was second, and Claremont racer Paul Colburn strong in third.

With only two weeks remaining in the 2020 racing season, fans will have another opportunity to enjoy an early-fall night of exciting outdoor entertainment when Monadnock Speedway hosts a full card of oval track racing this Saturday, September 19, on the storied quarter-mile.

For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

MONADNOCK SPEEDWAY SEPTEMBER 12 RESULTS:

NHSTRA Modifieds: Todd Patnode, Trevor Bleau, Cory Plummer, Ben Byrne, Brian Robie, Russ Hersey, Matt Kimball, Scott MacMichael, Kim Rivet, Solomon Brow, Brian Chapin, Jason Houle, Stewart McCormack, Cameron

Houle, Eric Leclair, Brad Zahensky, Kevin Pittsinger

Street Stocks: Jaret Curtis, Chris Buffone, Chase Curtis, Tim Wenzel, Hillary Renaud, Kenny Thompson, Robbie Streeter, Paul Barnard, Bryan Granger, Ed Brehio, Craig Chaffee

Late Model Sportsman: Aaron Fellows, Adam Gray, Robert Hagar, Cole Littlewood, Will Kuhn, Camdyn Curtis, John Meany, Scott Beck, Dan Comeau, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Justin Littlewood

Six Shooters: Brandon Mailhot, Adam Knowles, Paul Colburn, Jeremy Blood, David Piper, Travis Hollins, Chris Hadley, John Voorhees, Ben Bushey, Todd Maguire, Ray Luce, Chooch Snide, Chris Colburn, Brian Stefano, Scott Wade, Dakota Lanou

Mini Stocks: Kevin Cormier, Kevin Clayton, Pat Houle, Gordon Farnum, Tim Leblanc, Nathan Wenzel, William Chaffee, Shelby Avery, Jeff Asselin, Jeff Heath, Louis Maher II, Kyle Poodiack, Jake Puchalski, Kevin Russell, Kevin McKnight

Pure Stocks (unofficial): Erin Aiken, Jimmy Zellman, Mike Douglas, Chris Davis, Damon Roy, ,Matt Lambert, Nolan McClay, Doug Nelson, JD Stockwell, Nick Houle, Randy Phillips, Brandon Lavoie, Cory Lofland, Jason Leray, Bruce Clark, Ryan Lawliiss

COUNCIL, from page 1

recent hiring of Rory Casey for a logistics position in the city. The job is temporary, and Casey was Morse’s campaign treasurer during his congressional run.

The council approved the order without referring it to a subcommittee.

Morse lost to U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts, in the Democratic primary on Sept. 1.

Since the loss, the call for investigations into Morse’s behavior has continued and the same councilors who filed

the order seeking more transparency on the city’s hires, also filed multiple orders regarding the recent controversy involving Morse and his alleged questionable behavior at the University of Massachusetts, where he served as an adjunct lecturer.

The councilors filed an order seeking the results of that investigation in order to determine whether an investigation by the city will be necessary.

A week before the election, Morse received an apology from the College Democrats of Massachusetts for the timing of the letter detailing Morse’s behav-

ior. Morse decried the accusations as an invasion of personal life and said he did not violate any UMass policies when he engaged in encounters with students at the school.

In association with the order, Sullivan, Vacon, and Councilors David Bartley and Howard Greaney, Jr., have filed an order asking for the Massachusetts General Court to enact legislation to have a process of recalling elected officials in the city.

Currently, there is no provision for holding recall elections in Holyoke, which means a mayor or other elected

official cannot be removed from office by that process.

The proposal states 250 voters could file an affidavit and a statement of grounds to recall the official. The proposal includes an opportunity for a recalled official to resign or an election would be held.

In a recall election, the official being recalled has the ability to run for the same office, but would face competition in all likelihood. The situation occurred when citizens attempted to remove the mayor of Fall River due to criminal activity.

HERITAGE, from page 1

The City of Holyoke has a rich and beautiful history of Hispanic people making profound contributions across all sectors of the community, and that tradition continues today. Holyoke Public Schools proudly serves nearly 4,200 students (about 81% of our enrollment) who identify as Hispanic or Latino/a/x. We also are proud that our staff includes so many Hispanic and Latinx individuals leading, educating, and supporting our students throughout the school district. As a Hispanic myself, who came to the mainland U.S. from Puerto Rico at a young age as an English Learner, I join our Hispanic and Latino/s/x students, families, and staff in celebrating our experiences and journeys during this

month and beyond.

Over the next four weeks, we will share with the community through our website and social media platforms some of the creative ways that our schools showcase and celebrate Hispanic heritage and the innovative ways that our teachers incorporate the history of Hispanics in America into their lessons in art, literature, music, social studies, world languages, and more.

I invite you to join us in celebrating this month. Additionally, I encourage you to visit our website to discover activities to help you explore Hispanic history with your student and affirm our district’s commitment to honoring the rich diversity of the Holyoke Public Schools. ¡Celebra con orgullo el Mes de la Herencia Hispana!

LUNCH, from page 1

Arena and Victor will present “Comfortable in Your Own Skin, Finding Your Voice” from 12 noon to 1 p.m. over Zoom.

The series, postponed from spring because of COVID-19, is sponsored by Holyoke Community College and Training and Workforce Options – TWO – a collaboration between HCC and Springfield Technical Community College.

Each of four lunch-time events features two presenters leading discussions on different topics.

For the final session on Oct. 28, Colleen Loveless, president and CEO of Revitalize Community Development Corporation, and Nicole Palange, vice

president of V&F Auto, will lead a discussion titled, “Women Leaders in Non-Traditional Businesses.”

HCC president Christina Royal and Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement, led off the reimagined monthly Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series on July 29 with a session on “Leading Through Change.”

“Empowering Women in the Workplace” was the theme of the second session, led by Denise Jordan, executive director of the Springfield Housing Authority, and Julie Quink, managing partner of Burkhart, Pizzanelli PC.

Each session is \$20 and advance registration is required. To register, please go to: hcc.edu/womens-leadership.

Public Notices

Community Outreach Meeting
ACMJ LLC plan to develop a licensed cannabis cultivation, and manufacturing facility at 532 Main Street, Holyoke.
A community outreach meeting will take place at the above address on 5th October, 2020 at 7pm.
All are welcome. We will respect Covid-19 social distancing recommendations and require that all attendees wear a face mask.
Please direct any questions to: mark@greenglove.cc
9/18/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1478EA
Estate of:
Lionel Boucher
Date of Death: 11/11/1968
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jeffrey Boucher of Easthampton MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as

requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Jeffrey Boucher** of Easthampton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/29/2020.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 08,2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
9/18/2020

tled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 01, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
9/18/2020

Community Outreach Meeting
Green Highland LLC plan to develop a licensed cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, and retail facility at 26 Hadley Mill Road, Holyoke.
A community outreach meeting will take place at the above address on 5th October, 2020 at 6 p.m.
All are welcome. We will respect Covid-19 social distancing recommendations and require that all attendees wear a face mask.
Please direct any questions to: mark@greenglove.cc
9/18/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P1508EA
Estate of:
Brandon Alexander Reyes Brown
Date of Death: 04/07/2018
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Julia I Brown** of Springfield, MA.
Julia I Brown of Springfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the

Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
9/18/2020
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1532EA
Estate of:
Martin M Tkacz
Date of Death: 08/15/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Eric M Tkacz** of Buzzards Bay MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Eric M Tkacz** of Buzzards Bay MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To

do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/06/2020.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 08,2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
9/18/2020

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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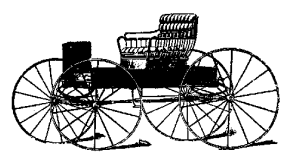
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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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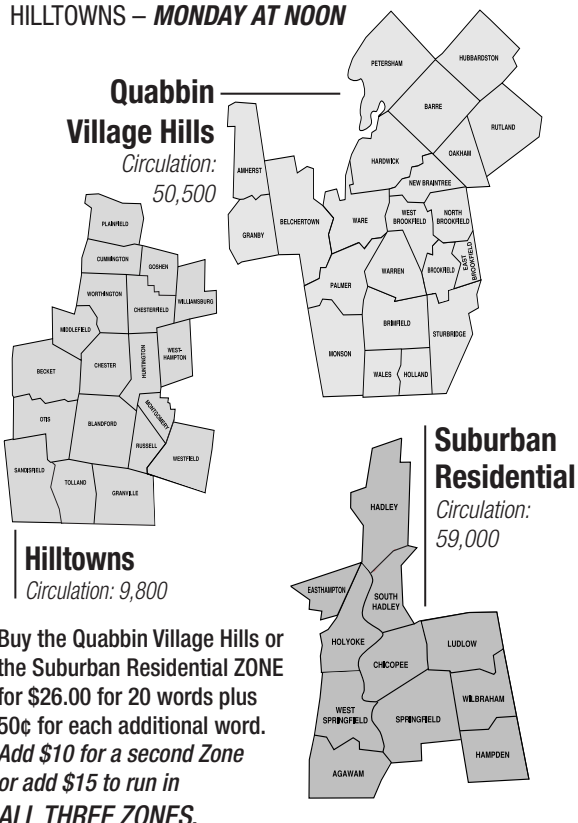
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CDC survey identifies COVID’s effects on mental health

When we talk about the symptoms of COVID-19, trouble breathing, fever, headache, loss of taste and smell, and cough are just a few that readily come to mind. Whether or not you are personally infected with the virus, it is important to recognize the serious impact of the pandemic on behavioral health in the community including the risk of depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, and suicide.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and in advance of the annual healthcare observance, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released a new survey that found increased levels of symptoms of anxiety and depressive disorders, substance use and suicidal ideation among adults. The survey also identified populations at increased risk, including young people, racial and ethnic minorities, essential workers and caregivers of adults.

“Social distancing and isolation during the pandemic has resulted in extreme loneliness for some people, especially the elderly, who may already be dealing with a variety of mental health conditions such as depression, which can lead to suicide. The economic hardships caused by unemployment, the loss of your own small business, and attempting to meet growing bills, are also contributing to a increase in suicides,” said Dr. Barry Sarvet, chair, Department of Psychiatry, Baystate Health.

“Furthermore, there are many individuals in our community who have experienced the loss of a loved one from COVID-19. The normal grieving process necessary for people to heal from losses like this are often disrupted by infection control measures and this increases the risk of depression in bereaved individuals,” he added.

The CDC survey statistics tell the story:

- 40% of American adults reported

experiencing mental or behavioral challenges tied to the COVID-19 crisis and measures including social distancing and stay-at-home orders.

- Nearly 11% of the 5,412 adults surveyed between June 24-30 reported having seriously considered suicide in the 30 days prior.

- The percentage was significantly higher among those between the ages of 18 and 24, with about a quarter saying they considered thoughts of suicide.

- Nearly 31% of unpaid caregivers and 22% of essential workers noted they had thoughts about ending their lives. Respondents who are black or Hispanic were also well above average.

- Anxiety or depression symptoms were reported by one-third of respondents. Also, some 26.3% reported experiencing trauma and stress-related disorders because of the pandemic.

Mental health conditions are often seen as the cause of suicide, but suicide is rarely caused by any single factor. In fact, many people who die by suicide are not known to have a diagnosed mental health condition at the time of death. Other problems often contribute to suicide, such as those related to relationships, substance use, physical health, and job, money, legal or housing stress.

The CDC lists 12 warning signs of suicide as:

- feeling like a burden
- being isolated
- increased anxiety
- feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- increased substance use
- looking for ways to access lethal means
- increased anger or rage
- extreme mood swings
- expressing hopelessness
- sleeping too little or too much
- talking or posting about wanting to die
- making plans for suicide.

If you have a loved one exhibiting such behaviors or thoughts, you should ask them what you can do to help. You can point out your observation that they seem sad and can encourage them to get help initially through their primary care doctor, who can assess the situation and prescribe medications or make a referral to a mental health professional.

“People who attempt to take their own lives often are profoundly hopeless and need people around them to notice their suffering and to help them to seek treatment. It’s really important for people to learn about the signs of depression, substance use disorders, and other common behavioral health conditions. It’s time for us to let go of the stigma that has made it so difficult for people to talk about these things,” said Sarvet.

The recent CDC survey also noted that one in four young adults in the U.S. said they considered suicide over the last month.

“In teenagers, depression is often complicated by disciplinary problems, school underachievement, interpersonal conflict, and drug and alcohol problems. It takes a great deal of understanding and compassion to notice the depressed person in the middle of all of this, who may be at serious risk for suicide,” said Sarvet.

He said it is important for parents and caring adults to learn how to recognize depression in teenagers, including:

- changes in school performance
- excessive worry or anxiety, for instance, fighting to avoid bed or school
- hyperactive behavior
- frequent and disturbing nightmares
- increased aggression or disobedience
- frequent temper tantrums.

Sarvet suggested working with your doctor or therapist to create a written “suicide safety plan” should you begin to experience thoughts of harming yourself.

When creating your plan, consider listing answers to the following:

- Warning signs or triggers of a developing crisis such as thoughts, images, mood, situation, behavior
- Internal coping strategies, such as relaxation techniques or physical activity, including engaging in your favorite hobbies
- People and social settings that can offer distraction
- People you can ask for help
- Professionals or agencies to contact in a crisis, including the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Steps for making the physical environment safer
- A safe place you can go to
- Things worth living for.

Sarvet noted suicide touches everyone.

The suicide death of a loved one or close friend can have a profound impact on survivors who often feel partly responsible for the tragedy. Those looking for support in coping with a suicide loss can visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention website at <https://afsp.org/> for a list of nearby support groups.

If you, or someone you know, is in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or the Psychiatric Crisis Team at 413-733-6661 for Springfield residents or to learn where to call outside the Springfield area. You can also talk with your primary care physician for a referral to a mental health professional or visit your local emergency room.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org.

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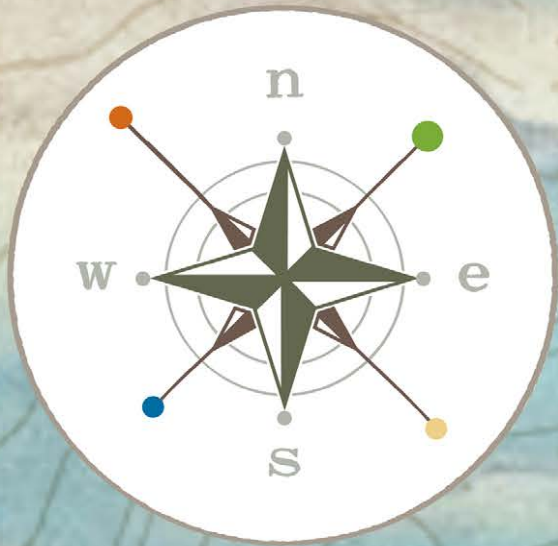
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